

# Ken's Korner Newsletter



Committed to HIV/AIDS Advocacy

May 2005



## Agency Announcements

**Community AIDS Resource and Education Services of Southwest Michigan (CARES):** CARES is seeking a full time HIV Outreach Educator to provide health education and counseling/testing to MSW and IDU populations in Benton Harbor, MI. BS in Human Services field and previous experience providing substance abuse treatment preferred. Competitive salary and benefit package. Please send resume to Julia Abrams, CARES, 629 Pioneer, Kalamazoo, MI 49008 or e-mail to [Julia@caresswm.org](mailto:Julia@caresswm.org).

**Project HOPE:** Please join the Advisory Board for an afternoon of discussion, planning and progress. The next meeting will be held Thursday, May 12 at 1:30. The location is Goodwill Industries on Grand River in Detroit. For more information please contact Kenneth Pape at (313) 456-1678.

**HIV/AIDS Advocacy Services:** The Mandated Reporter's Resource Guide is now available. The guide details the procedure for reporting child abuse or neglect. If you are a mandated reporter, such as social worker or nurse, please contact Kenneth Pape at (313) 456-1678 or e-mail at [papek@michigan.gov](mailto:papek@michigan.gov) to request a copy. Consult your supervisor if you are unsure if you are a mandated reporter.

**AIDS Partnership Michigan (APM):** "Knowledge is Power" bracelets can now be purchased for a suggested donation of \$2.00 each. All proceeds will benefit the programs of APM. Please visit [www.aidspartnership.org](http://www.aidspartnership.org) for ordering information.

### ***Do you have announcements?***

E-mail them to Desiree Sanders ([sandersd2@michigan.gov](mailto:sandersd2@michigan.gov)) or Kenneth Pape ([papek@michigan.gov](mailto:papek@michigan.gov)) by the first Monday of the month.

### **Contact**

Desiree Sanders  
Department of Human Services: HIV/AIDS Advocacy Services Intern  
(313) 456-1679  
[sandersd2@michigan.gov](mailto:sandersd2@michigan.gov)



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# Advance Directive

The heated debates surrounding the Terry Schiavo case has caused many Americans to start thinking about their wishes if they become seriously ill and are left unable to make decisions for themselves. Considering unexpected health issues and end-of-life issues and making decisions now can help minimize the difficult decisions often left up to family.

## **What is an advance directive?**

- Legally documents your wishes if you become seriously ill and are no longer able to make decisions for yourself.
- Provides health care providers, family, friends, and the courts clear guidance about who makes decisions for you and how they make them.
- Can take the form of a **durable power of attorney for health care** or can be in the form of a **living will**.

## **What is a durable power of attorney for health care?**

- You name a "patient advocate" to act for you and carry out your wishes.
- Patient advocate must be at least eighteen years old and can be a family member, friend or any other person you trust.
- Patient advocate can use the durable power of attorney for health care to accept or refuse any treatment on your behalf. If you want your patient advocate to be able to refuse any treatment and let you die, you must say so specifically in the durable power document.
- Only used when you are not able to make decisions for yourself.

## **What is a living will?**

- Has the same legal effectiveness as a durable power of attorney for health care.
- Does not require a patient advocate.
- Allows you to state your wishes in writing without an advocate.

## **How will an advance directive benefit me and/or my family?**

- Makes sure you receive the medical treatment you would want.
- Prevents any care that goes against your wishes.
- Gives power to the person who you want to make decisions for you.
- Prevents family and friends from feeling unsure about your wishes.



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#### **Do I need an attorney?**

No, but an attorney can help you prepare your durable power of attorney or living will, if you wish.

#### **How can I be sure my advance directive will be honored?**

- Discuss your wishes with family and/or friends.
- Be sure to let family and friends know you have an advance directive.
- Discuss your advanced directive with your health care provider.
- Store your document in a safe place where it can be easily found.

#### **Questions to consider when creating an advance directive:**

- "Who would you like to make treatment decisions for you, if you become unable to do so?"
- "How do you feel about ventilators, surgery, resuscitation (CPR), drugs or tube feeding if you were to become terminally ill? If you were unconscious and not likely to wake up?" If you become senile or suffer from dementia?
- "What kind of medical treatment would you want if you had a severe stroke or other medical condition that made you dependent on others for all your care?"
- "What sort of mental, physical, or social abilities are important for you to enjoy living?"
- "Do you want to receive every treatment your caregivers recommend?"

Source: University of Michigan Health System, Advance Directives/Living Wills,  
<http://www.med.umich.edu/1libr/aha/umadvdir.htm>)

#### **What do advance directives mean for case management?**

Case management is a perfect opportunity for clients to discuss their wishes and concerns. Case managers can direct clients to valuable information and assist them in making informed decisions about end-of-life care and treatment.

#### **For more information:**

##### **University of Michigan Health System**

<http://www.med.umich.edu/1libr/aha/umadvdir.htm>

On this site you can download sample forms for:

- Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Living Will
- Do-Not-Resuscitate

##### **Familydoctor.org**

<http://familydoctor.org/003.xml>

##### **U.S. Living Will Registry**

<http://www.uslivingwillregistry.com/>